

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the March 17, 2004 NCTC Meeting

DATE: March 12, 2004

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1. STATUS REPORT ON UC BERKELEY INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION STUDIES SAFETY EVALUATION TEAM

On March 6, 2004 team leader Nazir Lalani reported that he had passed the draft report to Toby Gloekler for his review and comment. Their plan is to provide us with a draft report for review by local agencies by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

2. DESIGNATION OF WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY AS A NON-ATTAINMENT AREA UNDER US EPA 8-HOUR OZONE STANDARDS

EPA Region IX staff members met on February 24<sup>th</sup> with Mountain Counties representatives, Caltrans, and California Air Resources Board to discuss EPA's policy reasons for proposing to include western Nevada County, Amador County, Calaveras County, Tuolumne County, and Mariposa County with the adjacent Sacramento and San Joaquin non-attainment areas under the Federal 8-hour ozone standards. In response to the discussions during the meeting, Gretchen Bennitt prepared her March 8<sup>th</sup> letter to Wayne Nastri (see Correspondence section of this agenda packet) as a means of presenting examples of the potential economic impact of EPA's proposal on the Mountain Counties.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> I spoke with Sharon Reinders of U.S. EPA's Air Quality office in Triangle Research Park, North Carolina, and Ms. Reinders indicated that headquarters staff has discussed this issue with their legal counsel and that pending a favorable recommendation from the Region IX staff, they were in a position to consider our request.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> Matt Haber of Region 9 EPA staff and Cynthia Marvin with California Air Resources Board (ARB) made a presentation to the Regional Council of Rural Counties and explained they have been working on developing a policy that would alleviate EPA's concern that if the up-wind metropolitan areas reach attainment prior to the down-wind mountain counties, EPA would have no enforceable means to require additional air quality improvements in the metropolitan areas. They were very optimistic about the results of their work thus far and expected that within two weeks ARB would deliver a letter to EPA Region IX that would include a solution to EPA's concerns. At this meeting, one of the county supervisors pressed Matt Haber as to whether or not Region IX staff

was supporting the Mountain Counties position, to which he responded that he didn't have the letter in hand so he couldn't say that they supported it. However, he was confident that when the letter came, Region IX would support it.

3. STATUS REPORT ON IDAHO-MARYLAND ROAD/EAST MAIN STREET INTERSECTION PROJECT

Caltrans is reviewing the report and background information on this alternative that was presented at the February Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) meeting. We expect to receive their comments between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of March. On March 9<sup>th</sup> I made a presentation to the Grass Valley City Council updating them on the refinements to the project concept and the cost estimate that has been prepared by Bickett Engineering. This project alternative would improve nine different intersections and two freeway ramps at a total cost of \$4,466,000. I will repeat the presentation given to the Grass Valley City Council at our March 17<sup>th</sup> NCTC meeting.

Following my presentation, the City Council of Grass Valley unanimously voted to approve the proposed East Main/Idaho-Maryland/Frontage Road/South Auburn/Colfax Avenue improvement project in concept and to support preparation of the necessary reports and plans to construct the improvements. Based on the city council's action and the generally receptive response that we received from Caltrans District 3 Director Jody Lonergan, Bickett Engineering is preparing a scope of work to complete the project development and design work for this improvement alternative. The updated scope of work will be presented to the Commission at its April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.